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Application/Control Number: 10/015,087

AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Art Unit: 3677

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CLEAN VERSION PER EXAMINER'S REQUEST      NO NEW MATTER INCLUDED

## IMPROVED SLIDINGLY ENGAGABLE FASTENERS and METHOD

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### FIELD OF INVENTION

This application is related to Slidingly Engagable Fasteners of the type described in US 5,983,467. It is also related generally to surface fasteners of diverse types and methods of producing same.

### BACKGROUND

Surface Fasteners of the Slidingly Engagable type (SEFs) were disclosed in US 5,983,467 entitled "Interlocking Device" by the undersigned. That disclosure included a range of fastener types, each including portions with a base structure having pluralities of apertures and islands, which may be slidingly engaged by application of a relative shearing force, so that the individual islands of one portion become interlocked within complementary apertures of the other, and vice versa. SEFs may be provided in various designs including uni-directional or multi-directional orientations; may be hermaphroditic or have different male and female portions; may be configured to connect a point, an edge, a strap, a surface or other condition; may include an associated aperture opening that provides a "snap fit" prior to engagement; and may also include diverse self-alignment and coupling mechanisms.

Typically, the individual apertures of Slidingly Engagable Fasteners are designed to receive complementary islands so as to allow a relatively loose and imprecise initial alignment to result in a relatively tight and more precise engaged state, after application of a relative shearing force. Three characteristics define this aspect. First, the apertures